

From: Service Plus - Jason Kozdra
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/7/02 9:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am part of a worldwide network that is working on getting the BeOS or equivalent back into the market place, but there is no hope of success if the following issues aren't addressed:

I believe, with many others, that Microsoft has made agreements with hardware vendors, to develop their products so that they will not operate on "alternative operating systems", especially those that are Open-Source, such as Linux, and some which are not Open Source, but which are given away at no charge, such as BeOS's Personal Edition.

It is nearly impossible to purchase a PC in the United States without some version of Microsoft Windows being included on it (OEM). The cost for this operating system is passed along to the end user, whether he or she uses Windows or not, even if that person purchases that PC with the intent to install an alternative operating system on it.

Many of these users, due to the aforementioned lack of support for alternative operating systems by hardware vendors, are forced to switch back to a Windows operating system, just so that their PC hardware will work.

There are plenty of developers out there who would develop drivers that would make vendor's hardware work in the alternative operating systems. It is not a lack of diligence that keeps these developers from creating drivers for the alternative operating system if they want to, it is the alleged agreements made between Microsoft and hardware vendors not to release the necessary information to these developers. This forces millions of users to "conform" to the Microsoft operating systems, strengthening the Microsoft Monopoly.

I do not believe that settlement discussion should proceed any further until any alleged agreements between Microsoft and hardware vendors is investigated.

Thank you,

Jason Daniel Kozdra
5893 Pine Top Road
Blairsville, GA 30512